(iv) Bank Protection work between Sondia Column and the river Haldi — Rs. 16.64 crores

(v) Instrumentation and Monitoring studies — Rs. 2.74 crores

Tenders for the first two components, namely, 'Capital dredging over Jiggerkhali flat including construction of dyke' and 'Trimming of the western face of Nayachara island' were issued on five occasions as a single package but had to be discharged for various reasons such as modification of pre-qualification criteria, modification of financial turn over criteria of tenderers, non-availability of bidders with specified working experience using Geo-tubes for construction of dykes, apprehension of bidders regarding reasonableness of time limit for work. Due to its inability in freezing the techno-commercial deviations put forward by the bidders, Kolkata Port Trust has engaged National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai as consultant to review/refine the project in the light of present hydro-dynamic conditions of Hooghly estuary as well as to revise the technical part of the tender document after finalising the recommendations. NIOT have already started the work of reviewing the scheme and their report is expected by the end of December, 2002. The contract packages for third and fourth components of the project, namely, 'construction of a guide wall at the southern end of Nayachara Island' and 'bank Protection work between Sondia Column and the river Haldi' are ready but it has been decided to defer placement of work order till the finalisation of first package to avoid any mismatch between major components of the work. As such, it is not possible to complete the project by May, 2003 as envisaged earlier. Expected date of completion of the project can be assessed after receiving the report of NIOT.

Revamping of Inland Water Transport Corporation

1313. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to revamp Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC);

(b) whether Government also propose to go in for a large scale privatisation of the inland waterways transport sector; and

(c) if so, the rational behind this plan and the type of financial incentives to be provided for procurement of modern fleets by the private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The Government of India has already approved a Re-organization plan for Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) Limited, Kolkata in June, 2001 with a total outlay of Rs. 139.55 crores.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved an Inland Water Transport Policy with the aim of accelerated development of inland waterways and to involve private sector in this field. It includes some policy decisions and also fiscal concession to attract private sector in IWT. In the present economic scenario it is necessary that both the public and private sector are involved in the development of various infrastructural facilities for the over all benefit of the country and this policy has been made with this rationale in view.

With a view to encouraging private operators to own and operate inland vessels on national Waterways, and Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme has been approved by the Government under which 30% of the cost of a vessel would be provided as subsidy to the owner of the vessel which should be operated on National Waterways. For this purpose the construction of vessel should be done in an Indian shipyard. Other incentives related to encouraging the ownership of the IWT vessels include higher depreciation rate for Inland vessels and levying reduced custom duty for import of some equipment and machinery related to IWT sector.

Private Sector Participation in port sector

1314. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the areas in the port sector for private sector participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have issued any clear-cut guidelines for the major ports in that regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has identified the following areas for private sector participation:–

(i) Leasing out existing assets of the Port

(ii) Construction/creation of additional assets, such as:

(a) Construction and operation of container terminals.